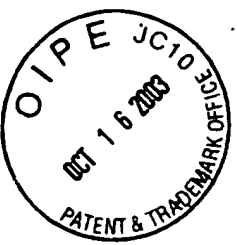


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B.D.
1-11-04



PATENT

ATTORNEY DOCKET 17972/193

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

5 In Re: application of: Paul R. Gagon

Serial No. 09/444,541

Group No.: 2644

Filed: 11/22/99

Examiner: Ping W. Lee

10

For: AUDIO BOOST CIRCUIT

Date: October 14, 2003

Hon. Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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OCT 20 2003

Technology Center 2600

15

ELECTION OF SPECIES
UNDER 35 U.S.C. 121

Dear Sir:

20 This Election is in response to Examiner's Paper 4 mailed 09/15/03 with one month to reply.

The Examiner's paper number 4 requires that the Applicant elect a species for prosecution from the species of Figure 2 or the species of Figures 3 and 4. Applicant
25 elects the species of Figures 3 and 4 for prosecution without traverse.

DISCUSSION

The independent claims in the case are claims 1, 11 and 15.

30

Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 represent a first group.

Claims 8, 9, and 10, if rewritten to include the limitations of claim 1 represent a new second group.

35

Claims 11, 12, 13, and 14 represent a third group.

Claims 15, 16 and 17 represent a fourth group.
New independent claim 18 contains the limitation of previous claim 8 of:

40

“an input buffer connected to receive the program input signal for processing the input program signal to provide high, low and mid-range frequency signal components, the input buffer having gain control circuitry for balancing and summing the high and mid-range signals,”

5

The second group (Claims 8, 9 and 10) is expanded to form (Claims 18 – 26) by incorporating the limitations found in earlier original dependent claims 3 – 7. The second group is believed to read on Figures 3 and 4, the second species identified by the Examiner.

10

Original group 3 (Claims 11 – 14) and Group 4 (Claims 15 – 17) are also believed to read on Figures 3 and 4, the second species identified by the Examiner.

15 An Amendment is submitted herewith that cancels (without prejudice) claims directed to the first group, the first species of Figure 2 identified by the Examiner.

20 New matter has not been added by the Amendment. The claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to feel free to call Applicant's attorney for the purpose of discussing any item relating to the prosecution which might lead to an early allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,

James F. Kirk
James F. Kirk

Office: (714) 840-1403

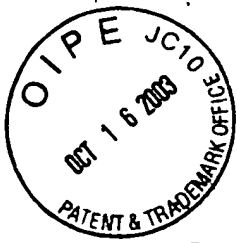
25

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30

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PATENT

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10/31/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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20

AMENDMENT

VERSION WITH CHANGES INCORPORATED

In the CLAIMS

25 The claims that follow are amended to incorporate the changes shown in the same list of claims following the **REMARKS** section.